The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 62, 76, 77 and 86 as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

62.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a) input means for inputting image data encoded by using intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding;

b) decoding means for decoding the encoded image data input by said input means, the encoded image data including intra-picture encoded image data and inter-picture encoded image data;

c) first encoding means for performing intra-picture coding on the image data decoded by said decoding means, and for storing the encoded image data in a storage medium;

d) editing means for decoding the image data stored in the storage medium, and for editing the decoded image data; and

e) second encoding means for encoding the image data edited by said editing means.

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63. (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, further comprising designation means for designating a desired picture from the encoded image data input by said input means, and wherein said editing means edits the image data of the picture designated by said designation means.

64. (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 63, wherein said decoding means decodes the encoded image data input by said input means, in accordance with the output of said designation means.

65. (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein the encoded image data input by said input means comprises data encoded by an MPEG method.

66. (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein said first encoding means encodes the image data decoded by said decoding means, by a JPEG method.

67. (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein said second encoding means encodes the image data edited by said editing means, by an MPEG method.

68. (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein, in the encoded image data input by said input means, the picture subjected to the intra-picture coding exists every predetermined number of pictures.

69.   (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein said decoding means decodes the encoded image data input by said input means, in units of the predetermined number of pictures.

70.   (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein said editing means performs the editing while displaying, on a monitor, the image data stored in said storage medium.

71.   (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein low-resolution image data is displayed on said monitor.

72.   (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein said editing means edits in a time base direction.

73.   (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein the editing of said editing means includes a change in the number of pictures.

74.   (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein the editing of said editing means comprises extraction of pictures.

75.   (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein the editing of said editing means comprises insertion of pictures.

76.   (Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

a) inputting image data encoded by using intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding;

b) decoding the encoded image data input in said step a), the encoded image data including intra-picture encoded image data and inter-picture encoded image data;

c) performing the intra-picture coding on the image data decoded in said step b), and storing the encoded image data in a storage medium;

d) decoding the image data stored in the storage medium, and editing the decoded image data; and

e) encoding the image data edited in said step d).

77.   (Twice Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a) input means for inputting image data encoded by using intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding, wherein the intra-picture coding is forcedly executed in a circle of a predetermined number of pictures;

b) instruction means for instructing an image to be edited;

c) decoding means for decoding a part of the encoded image data input by said input means, in accordance with the output of said instruction means, wherein when the image to be edited has been subjected to inter-picture coding, said decoding means decodes the part of the encoded image data necessary to decode at least the image to be edited;

d) editing means for editing the image data processed by said decoding means; and

e) encoding means for encoding the image data processed by said editing means.

78.　(Not Amended)　An apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein said instruction means designates a desired picture from the encoded image data input by said input means, and wherein said editing means edits the image data of the picture designated by said instruction means.

79.　(Not Amended)　An apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein said decoding means decodes the encoded image data input by said input means, in accordance with the output of said instruction means.

80.　(Not Amended)　An apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein the encoded image data input by said input means is the data encoded by an MPEG method.

81.　(Not Amended)　An apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein said encoding means encodes the image data edited by said editing means, by a JPEG method.

82.　(Not Amended)　An apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein said editing means edits in a time base direction.

83.　(Not Amended)　An apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein the editing of said editing means includes a change in the number of pictures.

84. (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein the editing of said editing means comprises extraction of pictures.

85. (Not Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 77, wherein the editing of said editing means comprises insertion of pictures.

86. (Twice Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting image data encoded by using intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding, wherein the intra-picture coding is forcedly executed in a circle of a predetermined number of pictures;

instructing an image to be edited;

decoding a part of the encoded image data input in said input step, in accordance with the instruction in said instructing step, wherein when the image to be edited has been subjected to inter-picture coding, said decoding step decodes the part of the encoded image data necessary to decode at least the image to be edited;

editing the image data processed in said decoding step; and

encoding the image data processed in said editing step.

REMARKS

Claims 62-86 are presented for consideration, with Claims 62, 76, 77 and 86 being independent.